CESS on R and D Work

3269. DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cess has been levied on the work pertaining to research and development in the country:

(b) if so, when this cess was levied and what is the procedure for assessment of cess;

(c) whether money has been collected every year through cess;

(d) if so, what is the amount collected through cess up to March, 1993; and

(e) whether money has been collected is utilised in research work; if so, what is the procedure for spending money on work pertaining to research and development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Smuggling of CAT GENE Samples

3270. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the write up in the Times of India of the 17th December, 1993 to the effect that the cat gene samples have been smuggled out of the country;

(b) whether Government are considering legislating to by ownership over the resources that originated in our country; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that it is proposed to take up with the GATT the concept of 'blobal common heritage' without giving just and fair compensation to countries of the South?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, AND IN THE DEPTTS. OF ELECTRONICS AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has seen the press clipping entitled "GENOME BANK FOR BREEDING TIGERS" appearing in the Times of India dated 17-12-1993, which does not mention smuggling out of cat gene samples from the country. However, the report appearing in the Times of India dated 18.12.1993 entitled "Scientist whisks big cat gene samples out of country" alleges that some of the samples have been taken out of the country.

(b) Action to formulate a legislation on conservation of biological diversity, including the issues related to ownership of the resources that originated in our country and access to genetic resources on mutually agreed terms on prior informed consent is under consideration.

(c) India, alongwith other countries, has ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity, which has come into force only two months ago. This Convention has, for the first time, established sovereign rights of the nations over their biological resuorces unlike the earlier situation when they were consider as the global common heritage.

Successful launch of GALS Satellite

3271. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether GALS Satellite was launched successfully on 20th January, 1994 and it is expected to be fully operational by March and from when its commercial programme would begin to be telecast over a wide area including Indian sub-continent;

(b) whether such telecasts are unauthorised; and

(c) if so, whether India has the means to prevent such unauthorised telecast?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND ELECTRONICS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) It is understood that geostationary satellite designated as GAILS was launched on January 20, 1994 by Russia and that it is expected to be operational by March, 1994 at 44 degree E longitude. It is also learnt that it carries three high power transponders operating in the 18/12 GHz band. It is understood that the setellite has technical carability to position satellite antenna coverage beam over any part-of the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). The transponders can be used for TV transmissions which could be received by relatively small dish antennas. It is understood that these transponders have already been leased out.

(b) and (c) The frequency bands used in these transponders fall in the category of Broadcast Satellite Service and the Russian authorities if they want to operate these beams over India, have to coordinate the operations with India. As per a resolution of the United Nations "A State which intends to establish or authorise the establishment of an international direct television broadcasting satellite service, shall without any delay, notify the proposed receiving State or States of such intention and shall promptly enter into consultation with any of those States which so requests". Under this resolution and if GALS operations are not technically compatible with the existing Broadcast Satellite Services Plan of 1977, mutual consultations will have to be entered into to find a satisfactory solution.

Housing/accommodation facility to the employees of SHAR Centre

3272. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of employees working in SHAR Centre, Sribarikota (Andhra Pradesh);

(b) how many of them have been provided with housing/accommodation facility; and

(c) what steps are being taken to provide accommodation to all the employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND ELECTRONICS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) 2435

(b) 2411

(c) The employees without Government accommodation are only 24. Some of these employees have not applied for Government accommodation and the remaining are waiting for their eligible type of quarters to fall vacant. This small waiting list will be wiped out when 24 quarters under construction are completed by June 1994.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Correcting answer to Unstarred Question No. 220 answered on 12-8-1993

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table a statement (in English and Hindi) correcting the reply given in the Rajya Sabha on the 12th August 1993 to Unstarred Question No. 2220 regarding permission for CBI Inquiry. (Placed in Library See No. LT 5579/94)